

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700033

## **1. Project Description**

### **A. Statement of GO Activity**

This project requests funds to operate and maintain facilities and trails at Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. Facilities include the caretaker site (deck, two sheds, lawn, perimeter fence, water supply, septic tank, electricity, phone), an ATV training site, a 4x4 obstacle course, three picnic areas containing 11 picnic tables, eight fire rings, two restrooms, nine trash cans, three kiosks, a paved OHV staging area containing a drinking water system, and a scenic overlook. There are 10 miles of riding trails and one-half mile of graveled access road that need to be maintained at least three times per year. Road maintenance requires the use of a motor grader and periodic re-supply of road base, while trail maintenance requires the use of either a tractor with box scraper or small dozer. The trails are located within the sand dune area designated as "open" to OHV use. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of vehicle barriers and signs would be occur using BLM appropriated funds only.

Because of the influence of the marine environment, facilities at the project area tend to degrade much sooner than inland areas. For this reason, the design and the structure of facilities emphasize "preventive maintenance", or keeping maintenance costs to a minimum. Frequent painting, varnishing, and other surface protection materials are applied to facilities, particularly those made out of wood such as the kiosks and scenic overlook. The picnic tables and restrooms are made of concrete, which helps to prevent rotting and extend their useful life. The project includes replacement of five trash cans with double-bin cans designed for recycled material. The 4x4 obstacle course needs additional rock, which would be placed strategically to provide a more challenging experience. Immediately adjacent to the obstacle course, a "balance beam" would be developed to provide additional riding challenges for 4x4 enthusiasts.

### **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

This ground operations project is necessary to provide an adequate level of services to the estimated 28,000 OHV visitors who recreate in this area each year. A BLM Maintenance Worker supported almost entirely with BLM appropriated funds, an Outdoor Recreation Planner, a seasonal Park Ranger, and the volunteer resident caretaker maintain these facilities to enhance the OHV recreation experience and maintain OHV opportunities. Keeping the ATV training site well maintained provides an excellent area for beginners to learn how to ride an OHV, and reduces the potential safety hazard in having beginners traveling on the same trails that advanced riders enjoy riding on. The numerous signs and information posted on the three kiosks provide riders with rules, regulations, and maps of which areas are open and closed. These information facilities reduce law enforcement problems related to riding in closed areas, no flags, double riding, and speeding in reduced speed zones. Maintaining the riding trails provides for an enjoyable riding experience and helps deter the motivation to seek out other areas (closed to OHV use) to ride on.

Avoiding conflicts with non-motorized recreation users is crucial in this relatively small area as approximately 150,000 non-motorized recreation visitors use the area annually. Having specific OHV riding facilities (ATV training site, 4x4 obstacle course, sand drag, OHV staging area) attracts riders to these particular sites and leaves additional space for other users, reducing conflicts substantially. Maintaining and installing new speed limit, caution, and slow signs inform riders of nearby areas where other recreation activities are occurring, thus reducing conflicts and protecting public safety, and preventing collisions. Existing signs also inform non-OHV users the location of riding areas so they know what to expect.

Neighboring residents and nearby private property are protected from trespass and property damage because signs have been installed along the property boundaries, and post and cable vehicle barriers physically prevent riders from trespassing. The prevailing wind from the north substantially reduces noise impacts because the neighboring residents live north of the riding area.

### **C. Size of the Project**

Samoa Dunes Recreation totals 400 acres. The open riding area totals approximately 220 acres and areas closed to OHV use(endangered plant protection area and wetland protection area) total nearly 180 acres. Approximately 10 miles of OHV

trails spread throughout the open riding area are maintained.

#### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The ATV training site, located at the entrance to the recreation area, is about an acre in size and provides beginners a safe place to learn and train. The site is fenced to delineate its boundary. The 4x4 obstacle course, located at the south end of Samoa Dunes, consists of two different sized rock piles where riders can test and display their skills. A tot-lot beginners trail is located adjacent to the Cypress Grove picnic area. A paved OHV staging area containing a drinking water system, a scenic overlook, picnic tables, fire rings, a restroom, trash cans, an information kiosk, and an unloading ramp provides OHV enthusiasts with all the amenities and basic requirements needed for a successful OHV recreation experience. The paved and graveled access roads lead to picnic areas and the OHV staging area. The OHV riding trails are predominantly located within the 220 acre open area, on the western portion of the recreation area.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700033

1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Samoa Dunes Facilities Map](#)

[Samoa Dunes Trails Map](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Samoa Dunes Facilities](#)

[Trail Maintenance Photos](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office  
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - Arcata Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>This project requests funds to operate and maintain facilities and trails at Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. Facilities include the caretaker site (deck, two sheds, lawn, perimeter fence, water supply, septic tank, electricity, phone), an ATV training site, a 4x4 obstacle course, three picnic areas containing 11 picnic tables, eight fire rings, two restrooms, nine trash cans, three kiosks, a paved OHV staging area containing a drinking water system, and a scenic overlook. There are 10 miles of riding trails and one-half mile of graveled access road that need to be maintained at least three times per year. Road maintenance requires the use of a motor grader and periodic re-supply of road base, while trail maintenance requires the use of either a tractor with box scraper or small dozer. The trails are located within the sand dune area designated as "open" to OHV use. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of vehicle barriers and signs would be occur using BLM appropriated funds only.</p> <p>Because of the influence of the marine environment, facilities at the project area tend to degrade much sooner than inland areas. For this reason, the design and the structure of facilities emphasize "preventive maintenance", or keeping maintenance costs to a minimum. Frequent painting, varnishing, and other surface protection materials are applied to facilities, particularly those made out of wood such as the kiosks and scenic overlook. The picnic tables and restrooms are made of concrete, which helps to prevent rotting and extend their useful life. The project includes replacement of five trash cans with double-bin cans designed for recycled material. The 4x4 obstacle course needs additional rock, which would be placed strategically to provide a more challenging experience. Immediately adjacent to the obstacle course, a "balance beam" would be developed to provide additional riding challenges for 4x4 enthusiasts.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-Outdoor Recreation Planner	200.000	51.000	HRS	8,000.00	2,200.00	10,200.00
	Maintenance Worker	200.000	40.000	HRS	2,000.00	6,000.00	8,000.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				10,000.00	8,200.00	18,200.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Restroom Pumping	4.000	500.000	EA	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Other-Trash Collection	52.000	50.000	EA	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office  
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Trail grooming	32.000	100.000	HRS	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00
	Other-Road Grading	32.000	150.000	HRS	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
	Other-4x4 Obstacle Course Repair	8.000	150.000	HRS	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				9,000.00	4,800.00	13,800.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Trash Cans	5.000	1100.000	EA	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00
	Other-4x4 Balance Beam	2.000	2000.000	EA	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	Other-ATV Hemets, Gloves, Flags	3.000	200.000	MISC	600.00	0.00	600.00
	Other-signs	6.000	100.000	EA	0.00	600.00	600.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				10,100.00	600.00	10,700.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
	Other-ATV Tuneup	30.000	40.000	HRS	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>					30,300.00	13,600.00	43,900.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					30,300.00	13,600.00	43,900.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>30,300.00</b>	<b>13,600.00</b>	<b>43,900.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office  
 Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	10,000.00	8,200.00	18,200.00	
2	Contracts	9,000.00	4,800.00	13,800.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	10,100.00	600.00	10,700.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		30,300.00	13,600.00	43,900.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		30,300.00	13,600.00	43,900.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>30,300.00</b>	<b>13,600.00</b>	<b>43,900.00</b>	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700033

**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

Facility operations and maintenance, and ground operations such as trail grooming do not impact wetlands, navigable waters, or sensitive habitats. All existing facilities are on flat, graveled sites or dune areas vegetated with invasive non-native species. They are not located in any wetlands or navigable waters, nor are they located in rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive habitat areas.

BLM has had informal consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pertaining to three planning documents. The first planning document is the BLM Environmental Assessment and Land Use Decision Amendment for the Samoa Peninsula Management Area, dated July 1995. The US Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the determination that the proposed action will have no effect on the western snowy plover and is not likely to adversely affect beach layia or Humboldt Bay wallflower.

The second planning document is the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area Final Visitor Services Plan, dated September 1997. The US Fish and Wildlife Service found that the plan will not adversely affect federally listed species or critical habitat.

The third document pertains to the BLM project to allow OHV use on 100 acres of city of Eureka property (Eureka Dunes Riding Area), to construct and maintain fenced enclosures and an easterly perimeter vehicle barrier, and to restore native dune mat vegetation by physically extracting exotic plants. The US Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration with a no effect determination for the western snowy plover due to lack of suitable habitat within the project site. The Service concurred with the determination that the proposed project may affect, but is unlikely to adversely affect, the beach layia and Humboldt Bay wallflower.

The BLM has also obtained several Coastal Development Permits from the California Coastal Commission that allow OHV use on the Eureka property. The Coastal Commission approved a Consistency Determination before BLM opened a portion of the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area to OHV use. A comprehensive Staff Report for the latest Coastal Development Permit provides an excellent review of the resource values, findings and declarations, special conditions, and a section that states that the project is consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act and conforms to CEQA.

Prior to trail maintenance activities, the BLM botanist will survey the trails (within one week of actual work) for the presence of endangered, threatened, rare, or otherwise sensitive species. If threatened, endangered, or sensitive species are encountered, trail maintenance work will not occur within 25 feet in either direction from the plant(s) as flagged in the field by the BLM botanist.

Prior to, and within one week of trail maintenance activities, the BLM wildlife biologist will determine if the project area is within suitable habitat for any threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species. Projects that coincide with both suitable habitat and seasonal potential for occurrence will be surveyed to determine species presence, absence and/or reproductive status. If the area is determined to be free of threatened, endangered, or sensitive status wildlife species and no nests are located within 100 feet of the trail, the project may continue. No trail will be maintained within 100 feet of any threatened, endangered, or sensitive status wildlife nests.

#### **ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

Approximately 220 acres of open riding area is available at Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. This riding area contains facilities such as the OHV Staging Area, picnic areas, restrooms, a caretaker site, 4x4 obstacle course, and an ATV training site. Ten miles of riding trails are maintained using OHV trust funds. The cumulative impact of these facility operations and maintenance, and trail grooming activities being completed in the same place over several years is insignificant as they would have no negative impact on the area's resource values or visitor use activities.

No other similar OHV riding areas exist in the region, and no other similar riding areas are anticipated in the future. Off-highway vehicle use numbers have not increased over the last several years, so increased noise and traffic has not increased.

#### **ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

Facility operations and maintenance would have no negative impacts on the environment due to unusual circumstances such as steep slopes or highly erosive soil. There are no steep slopes in the area. Sand dunes, by nature, are highly erosive due primarily to the force of wind, but facility operations and maintenance do not affect the formation and movement of sand in this area.

Off-highway vehicle use, and to a lesser extent, trail grooming loosens the sand, increasing the likelihood for increased erosion on the banks of the trails and displacement of sand due to wind. Because the open riding area is located in degraded dune habitat consisting almost exclusively of invasive, non-native weeds, the impact on the surrounding environment is insignificant.

De-stabilized dunes are preferred for expansion of the two endangered plant habitats that occur in the area.

#### **ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

Project activities are not within view of a state scenic highway, thus the potential for damage to scenic resources is non-existent.

#### **ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

#### **ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.



**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

The potential for the Project to cause indirect significant impacts is negligible. Off-site impacts (riders traveling into closed areas) are kept to a minimum through education, signing, on-site patrols, and law enforcement. Most Non-OHV users of the area are well aware to expect to see and hear OHV's, and they continue to recreate in the project area. Increased use in the vicinity of the project site is negligible.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[2008 2009 Off Highway Vehicle Grant Application](#)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700033

**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.**

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to maintain the post and cable barriers between open and closed areas could likely cause a negative impact to a cultural site and damage to rare and endangered plants. An inadequate level of trail grooming would result in riders seeking out other more pleasurable areas and trails to ride on, resulting in increased resource damage, trespass onto private property and other closed areas, and increased conflicts with non-OHV recreationists. An inadequate level of facility operations and maintenance would cause several problems. Information, directional, and regulatory signs would eventually degrade and disappear, resulting in uninformed riders inadvertently violating the rules and potentially causing resource damage or conflicts with other recreation users. Amenities such as drinking water, restrooms, picnic tables, trash cans and other facilities would not be adequately maintained, thus decreasing the overall recreation experience of OHV riders who use these facilities often.

**3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.**

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The project would maintain 10 miles of riding trail to sustain a groomed surface. This is preferred over multiple and continuous humps that are created over time from continual use. The portion of the access road that is graveled would be graded, removing the numerous pot holes that are formed from vehicle use. The inboard ditches are cleaned and the road crowned to reduce erosion. The project requests funds to maintain, repair, or replace signs that educate visitors about trail and facility locations, rules and regulations, and areas open and closed to OHV use. The width and configuration of the trails varies so that certain trails are preferred by 4x4's and others by ATV's and motorcycles. Trails also vary in difficulty, from easiest to moderately challenging.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Members of OHV clubs, other recreation groups, and environmental organizations were informed of the proposed project and asked to provide suggestions and recommendations.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Lost Coast 4x4 Club  
Rocky's Off-Road Club  
California Conservation Corps  
Surfrider Foundation

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 4

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)  
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)  
☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)  
☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)  
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Samoa Dunes was designed to prevent impacts on native vegetation, special-status species, and cultural / historical resources by closing such areas (post and cable barriers) to OHV use. The open riding area and facilities are located in areas that were already highly disturbed where only invasive, non-native vegetation continues to exist. The 40-acre endangered plant protection area and 120-acre wetland protection area are completed enclosed by protective fencing and closed to OHV use. Cultural sites are within these closed areas. Two restrooms (sanitary facilities), one at the OHV staging area and the other at the Cypress Grove picnic area, are located at Samoa Dunes and prevent sanitation problems.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 2

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☐ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [brochure and resource information posted on kiosks]

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ No (No points)

☐ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☒ Equestrian trails

☒ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☒ Other (Specify) [surfing, picnicking, nature study]